



NORTHEAST IDAHO

BONNEVILLE, BUTTE, CLARK, CUSTER, FREMONT, JEFFERSON, LEMHI, MADISON, & TETON COUNTIES

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the Bonneville Labor Market Area (LMA) increased three-tenths of a percentage point from August to September 2001, for a current rate of 3.4 percent. Much of this increase came from Bingham County's increase of seven-tenths of a percentage point month-over-month. Bingham County's September unemployment rate jumped to 4.5 percent. Bingham County is highly affected by agricultural activity, especially potato fresh-packing and processing. Some potato processing plants were still undergoing maintenance while some others were completely shut down awaiting harvest of the new crops during this time period. The LMA changed very little—an increase of one-tenth of a percentage point—from September of 2000.

The LMA's other three counties showed low unemployment rates for September: Bonneville County at 3.0 percent, Butte County at 2.8 percent, and Jefferson County at 2.9 percent. Idaho Falls, the largest city in the LMA, showed an unemployment rate of 3.2 percent, up three-tenths of a percentage point from the previous month and unchanged from September 2000.

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs increased 630 jobs month-over-month, for a total of 64,430 jobs in the LMA. *Goods-Producing Industries* increased 1,440 jobs month-over-month with *Manufacturing* increasing 1,240 jobs (*Nondurable Goods*) and *Construction* showing an increase of 200 jobs. *Food & Processing (Canned, Frozen & Preserved Fruits, Vegetables and Food Specialties)* showed the largest increase as processing plants in Bonneville and Jefferson counties started back into operation after annual maintenance layoffs. *Construction* jobs increased mainly in the *Special Trade Contractors* sector.

Service-Producing Industries decreased 810 jobs month-over-month. *Services* decreased 530 jobs, with *Membership Organizations* being a large contributor. Scout organizations add a large number of jobs for day and overnight camps for the

Northeast Idaho Table 1: Labor Force & Employment
Bonneville, Bingham, Butte, & Jefferson counties

	Sept 2001*	August 2001	Sept 2000	% Change From Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	83,370	83,960	79,810	-0.7	4.5
Unemployment	2,850	2,580	2,600	10.5	9.6
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.4	3.1	3.3		
Total Employment	80,520	81,380	77,210	-1.1	4.3
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	84,880	84,740	81,270	0.2	4.4
Unemployment	3,020	3,390	2,750	-10.9	9.8
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.6	4.0	3.4		
Total Employment	81,860	81,350	78,520	0.6	4.3
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
<i>Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**</i>	64,430	63,800	63,420	1.0	1.6
<i>Goods-Producing Industries</i>	11,710	10,270	9,480	14.0	23.5
Mining & Construction	5,360	5,160	4,310	3.9	24.4
Manufacturing	6,350	5,110	5,170	24.3	22.8
Food Processing	3,820	2,470	2,680	54.7	42.5
Ind. & Com. Mach. & Computer Equip.	490	510	570	-3.9	-14.0
All Other Manufacturing	2,040	2,130	1,920	-4.2	6.3
<i>Service-Producing Industries</i>	52,720	53,530	53,940	-1.5	-2.3
Transportation, Comm., & Utilities	2,410	2,350	2,370	2.6	1.7
Wholesale Trade	5,790	5,880	5,890	-1.5	-1.7
Retail Trade	10,950	11,410	11,680	-4.0	-6.3
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	1,860	1,910	1,870	-2.6	-0.5
Services	21,410	21,940	21,510	-2.4	-0.5
Government Administration	5,760	5,910	5,820	-2.5	-1.0
Government Education	4,540	4,130	4,800	9.9	-5.4

*Preliminary Estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

month of August only. *Retail Trade* also decreased noticeably in the sectors of *Eating & Drinking Places* and *Miscellaneous Retail*. School start-ups and an end to the tourist season are both factors that traditionally contribute to such changes. *Transportation* increased in the *Service-Producing Industries* month-over-month thanks to the *Motor Freight Transportation & Warehouse* sector. The only other increase was *Government Education* as school started back into session.

A year-over-year glance shows an overall increase of 1,010 *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs*, thanks to the *Goods-Producing Industries*. *Construction (Special Trade Contractors)* increased 1,050 jobs while *Manufacturing (Food Processing)* increased 1,140 jobs. *Service-Producing Industries* decreased 1,220 jobs, largely in *Retail Trade—Eating & Drinking*, and *Local Government—Education*. Several smaller restaurants have gone out of business due to calamities and/or retirements over the year. A tight unemployment rate also has taken a toll on some fast food businesses because finding sufficient labor has been challenging. Education jobs have been affected by the ever-changing school-age population in each district, and the jobs have fluctuated accordingly.

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

Bonneville County

- FamilyFlicks, a G-rated family store, opened at 2125 West Broadway in Idaho Falls. The store, located in Madsen's Ben Franklin Craft Store, has more than 300 videos edited to cut out portions that might be considered offensive. The public can find both recent blockbusters and old-time favorites. Customers interested in membership must pay a membership fee to join the club. Business hours are 3:30 p.m. - 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 3:30 p.m. - 9 p.m. Friday and Saturday.
- Edited Videos also opened in Idaho Falls at 1541 East 17th Street. Customers can bring in their own videos and have them edited to cut out parts they find offensive. For a membership fee, they also can check out versions of edited movies. John Marlowe of Rexburg opened the store in August. The store's number is 552-3345.
- Gretel's Gifts closed at the end of September. The Idaho Falls store was located at 478 Shoup Avenue. Owner Dick Clayton, 82, decided to retire. The store had been in operation for 35 years and was well-known for its personalized services of gift-wrapping and no-charge deliveries.
- In October, Idaho Falls was the site of an international conference on cleaning up a nuclear waste storage site 300 miles north of the Arctic Circle (Russia's Andreeva Bay). The U.S. Department of Energy initiated the invitation, and representatives from eight countries met to discuss stabilization of the site. Andreeva Bay was the Soviet Union's nuclear submarine support base until 1984, but became a nuclear waste storage site since that time. Recommendations generated from the conference workshops will be discussed by a group of experts at a meeting scheduled in Sweden this month. Cleaning of the site will take an international effort. The United States, the Russian Federation, Norway, Finland, Sweden, The Netherlands, the United Kingdom, and France were all represented.
- Changes are taking place at Idaho Fall's Bonneville Museum. A renovation project is adjoining two buildings in front of the busy intersection of Broadway and Yellowstone in Idaho Falls. The project is ahead of schedule. A newly-constructed glass wall will link the existing museum to the newly-renovated building which is the former Masonic Temple. The \$3 million project will continue through the winter once the glass is in place. The expansion triples the size of the museum to 30,700-square feet and makes it entirely accessible to people with disabilities. The expansion is part of a plan for furthering educational programs and creating expanded exhibits at the museum. Because of its location, exhibits, and new aesthetics, the museum is anticipated to be a prominent

tourist attraction. A grand opening in late fall or early winter 2002 is expected.

Lemhi County

- Granny's Steak House in Salmon caught fire in September and burned. The fire was caused by grease in the kitchen that could not be contained. Everyone was evacuated safely, but the building was condemned and the owner has no plans to rebuild.
- The Lemhi Historical Society received a check for \$13,888 for improvements to the Lemhi County Historical Museum on Main Street in Salmon. The monies are part of the Governor's Bicentennial Museum Initiative. Of the \$500,000 appropriation to assist groups involved with "The Idaho Governor's Lewis and Clark Trail Committee," \$125,000 was earmarked to be used specifically to assist the non-federal museums along and adjacent to the Lewis and Clark Trail. A sign in front of the museum already advertises a new phone number for the updated phone system that currently is being installed.
- A dedication program celebrating the future building of the Sacajawea Interpretive, Cultural and Education Center was held October 20, in Salmon. Earlier in the year, the Lemhi Shoshone elders requested the dedication to honor Sacajawea and other ancestors. It took place at the 71-acre Sacajawea Interpretive site on Highway 28 just east of the Salmon city limits. The dedication started with a Sunrise Blessing Ceremony led by Darrel Tendoy. The dedication included Native American music, cultural ceremonies, historical events, patriotic songs, and recognition of special visitors--Native American representatives from several tribes, congressional representatives, and the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Committee. A luncheon followed at the WhiteWater Therapeutic Arena which included such foods as buffalo, salmon, and traditional Indian foods. Entertainment was provided by the Salmon Old Time Fiddlers.

Madison County

- Sugar City received a \$500,000 loan from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development project. The loan will be used to increase wastewater treatment capacity and make road improvements. Currently, the city's sewer wastewater is treated at the Rexburg treatment plant. Part of the loan will help purchase additional capacity at the Rexburg plant which is needed to meet demands at Norsun, a potato treatment plant. Over the next 20 years, Norsun will repay the city. The remaining funds will be used to update seven miles of streets.

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